Golden Moments

In this issue, we highlight one of the WA State team's most amazing triumphs.

It's 25 years since the WA State team — made up of part-time players — stunned Australia by beating the Socceroos 2-1 in a challenge match at Inglewood's ground on November 26, 1983.

Kiev striker Steve McCaffrey scored the opening goal in the first half when he outjumped the national team's defence. John Kosmina equalised shortly afterwards — but Macedonia midfielder Ronnie Campbell struck in the 83rd minute to drill home a Dave Kamasz cross and clinch a famous victory.

The Socceroos had played England in a friendly in Sydney a few months earlier and drawn 0-0 with them, so losing to a State side brought them back to earth with a thump.

It was a big wake-up call for the Aussie team and coach Les Scheinflug who had stopped of in Perth to use the game as a warm-up before competing in the Merlion Cup in Singapore.

And it certainly worked, for the Socceroos went on a few weeks later to win the prestigious Asian tournament, beating Singapore 4-2 in the final. Other teams that took part in the Merlion Cup were China, South Korea, Brunei, Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore B. Australia had beaten the Koreans 3-1 in the semi-finals.

It was a large feather in the cap of the WA side, who went to Asia themselves shortly afterwards and reached the semi-finals of the Kings Cup in Thailand.

Campbell has particularly fond memories of the game against Australia — and his goal.

"Coach Mike Leigh hadn't included me in the starting line-up, so I was anxious to do well when I came on as a sub with about 30 minutes to go," he recalls.

"I was quite pleased with the way I played and I saw an opening late on and made a run from midfield to get on the end of Dave's cross.

"I managed to place a left-footer out of the reach of goalie Terry Greedy. It was an unusual goal for me, for I don't think I had scored with my left foot before."

Interestingly, when Campbell went to play in the National Soccer League with Melbourne side Preston a few years later, Scheinflug tried to tempt him away to sign for Sydney outfit Blacktown.

He was also offered terms by Adelaide City coach Zoran Matic, but the deal hit a hurdle when he ruptured an Achilles tendon.

"That was a big disappointment, for I wanted to play with Willie McNally, who was Adelaide's goalie at the time. Willie is the most professional player I've ever known," said Campbell, who these days is a successful coach with Western Knights.

The WA squad who faced Australia: Glen Guidici (Azzurri), Dave Roxby (Tricolore); Ricky Davis (Athena), Steve Tombides (Macedonia), Frank Faraone (Azzurri), Jeff Lewis (Tricolore), Matt Pearson (Dalmatinac), Eric Williams (Dalmatinac), Ronnie Campbell (Macedonia), Dave Kamasz (Dalmatinac), Paul Tombides (Macedonia), Graham Normanton (Azzurri), Rene de Koning (Bayswater), Frank McKay (Tricolore), Norrie Sutton (Croatia), Steve McCaffrey (Kiev), Frank Clark (Kiev). Coach: Mike Leigh.

SUPPORT THE NEW INDUCTESS

Fancy being part of another chapter in the history of WA football?

Then what better way than to be in attendance when the newcomers to the Football Hall of Fame are welcomed at the 2008 induction ceremony, which will held at the Novotel Langley Hotel in Perth on Saturday, July 26.

All current members of the Hall of Fame will receive a 20 per cent reduction on tickets to what promises to be a gala night to remember.

There will be a sumptious meal, including drinks, entertainment and the chance to obtain some highly-prized memorabilia.

If you want to know more contact one of the Hall of Fame Committee members.

Craig Hollingsworth, incidentally, has resigned from the Committee. We would like to thank him for all his support during the last six years.

Committee members are: **Chairman:** Louis Prospero (0413 041942). **Treasurer:** Bob Brown (9446 3338). **Secretary:** Barbara Gibson (9526 0330). **Others:** John O'Connell, Peter Dimopoulos, Richard Kreider, Russell Goodrick, Mel Moffat.

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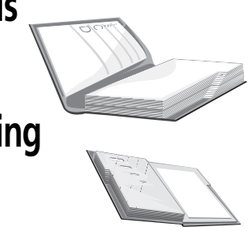

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THE FAME GAME

(The official newsletter of the Football Hall of Fame Western Australia)

Issue 6 (Autumn 2008)

SALUTE TO OUR RON

Former Chelsea striker Ron Tindall has struck another blow for the good of the game — this time for WA football.

The man who used to partner England superstar Jimmy Greaves in the Chelsea forward line provided the WA game with huge exposure at national level when he was awarded with the Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2008 Australia Day Honours List.

Ron, one of the most knowledgeable and influential coaches to be based in Western Australia, received his honour for services to sport.

The Australian Government citation read: For service to sport, particularly through the development of football and through the education and development of sports coaches.

"I'm thrilled — football rarely gets awarded for anything, so it's good to get the acknowledgement," said Ron, who was born in the London suburb of Streatham in 1935.

After a prolific playing career with Chelsea — he scored 67 goals in 160 games — he went on to play for West Ham, Reading and Portsmouth, where he was also manager, before heading Down Under just over 30 years ago.

He was appointed the State Director of Coaching with the Soccer Federation of WA — a post he held for 10 years from 1977 to 1987, during which time he was also in charge of the State team.

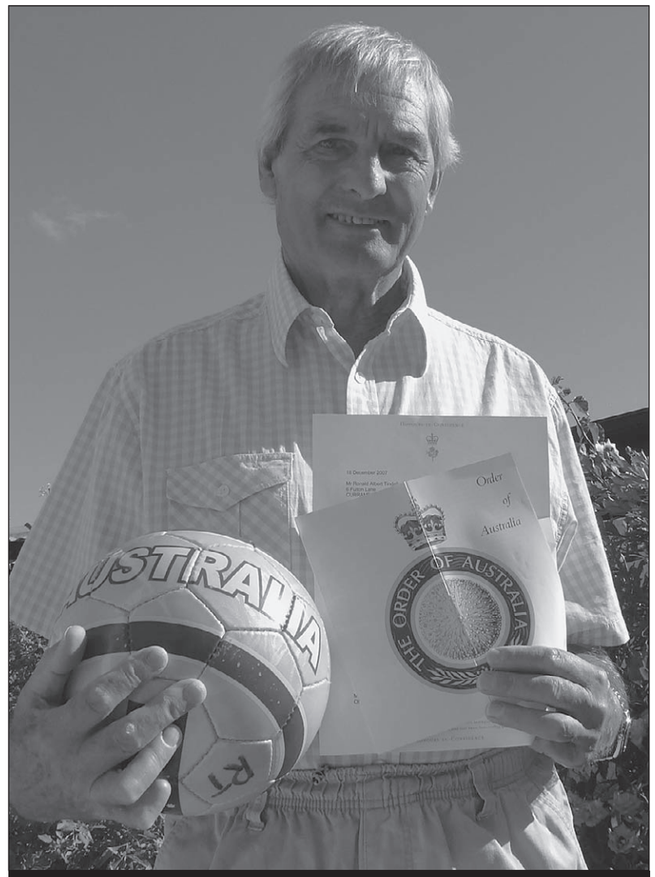
He was also Development Coach with the Department of Sport and Recreation in WA for 12 years. He founded and operated the Coaching Foundation WA organisation, set up the soccer programme at the WA Institute of Sport and has also written several books on coaching.

He was assistant coach of the Australian Under-23 team in 1985 — and more recently was involved in the preparation of the Socceroos side that won through to the 2006 World Cup finals in Germany.

"I twice went to South America to run the rule over our potential opponents in our World Cup qualifiers — and wrote reports for Football Federation Australia," said Ron.

Now nearly 73, he is still active in coaching through work he does for the Prison Services in WA. He coaches and organises games at two prisons.

Ron was inducted into the Hall of Recognition at the 2002 Football Hall of Fame induction ceremony.



Ron Tindall shows off his Order of Australia citation

NEW CATEGORY FOR SPECIAL PLAYERS

The Football Hall of Fame Western Australia has launched an exciting new category, to be called the Hall of Merit for Players.

It will be the third classification in the Hall of Fame, after the Hall of Champions and the Hall of Recognition.

The Hall of Merit for Players will recognise the achievements of special players who enjoyed considerable success at club level and made an outstanding contribution to the game in WA.

These players must also have gained State representative honours, or played for Australia at under-age or senior level, or have gained a similar high level of achievement in another State or in an overseas league.

The players must have either been born in WA, been raised in WA or have played in WA for not less than three seasons.

The Committee of the Football Hall of Fame WA felt there was need for a third category to salute the feats of certain players who have made major impacts and had outstanding careers but whose opportunities to meet the tough criteria for inclusion in the Hall of Champions may have been thwarted by long-term injury, lack of high-profile chances because of diminishing State representative games or other circumstances.

As with the other categories, the Committee reserves the right to have the final say on all nominees.

The first inductees into the Hall of Merit for Players will take place at the 2008 Hall of Fame induction night, to be held at the Novotel Langley Hotel in Perth on Saturday, July 26.

The Hall of Champions criteria has also been updated, with more recognition being given to involvement in the A-League and overseas leagues.

The qualifying period for inclusion in the Hall of Champions has been changed, being reduced from having ceased playing at a professional or semi-pro level from five years to three years.

Obituaries

IN THIS ISSUE WE PAY TRIBUTE TO **ALEX MANSFIELD**, **RUSSELL WHITSON**, **TREVOR SPRIGG** AND **RONNIE MULLAN**

AN INFLUENTIAL FIGURE

Alex Mansfield, one of WA football's most influential figures in the two decades following the Second World War, died at the age of 87 on January 4, 2008.

He had been ill for some time. He is survived by his wife Jane, sons Ian and Malcolm, their wives and several grandchildren.

Alex was born in Essex in England on June 4, 1920 — but his heart belonged to Scotland, the birthplace of his father, George Mansfield, who played as a full-back for Morton.

"Nothing would have given dad greater pleasure than to have retired to a wee hoose in Scotland," said his son Ian.

Alex's father was born in Campbelltown on the Mull of Kintyre — and it was appropriate that the tune, Mull of Kintyre, figured prominently in the funeral service.

Alex was a very useful footballer — playing for Essex County as a youngster — and had just been given trials by Millwall and Southend when the war intervened in his sporting career. He joined the Navy and captained the Navy X1 in many games overseas and in England — against the likes of Millwall and Newcastle.

When on shore leave in Fremantle, he was captivated by Australia — and his wife to be — and decided to emigrate to WA in 1946.

Alex also excelled at athletics, rowing and boxing — he was later a swimming coach and also played water polo — but football was his passion and he joined North Perth as a no-nonsense defender, winning several trophies in 1947.

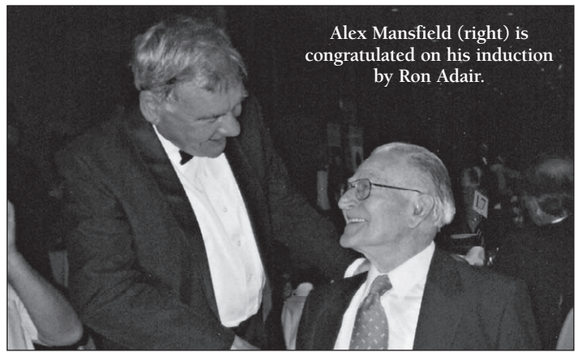
His attributes were quickly recognised, with representation in the State team — and he captained WA to victory in the 1948 Southern States Carnival tournament in Adelaide, the first major trophy won by the men from the west.

He had two spells as player-coach of Perth City and won the 1959 First Division championship in the first of two years as coach of Azzurri.

When a knee injury sidelined him at the age of 40 in 1960, his wife burnt his boots and said it was time he gave up.

But his interest in the game never waned. One of his lasting legacies was being the instigator of association football being accepted into the West Australian high school curriculum.

He was highly respected by his fellow players — two former team-mates Bob Cherry and Frank Reid attended the funeral service — and his great achievements were officially recognised when he was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2005.



Alex Mansfield (right) is congratulated on his induction by Ron Adair.

A GENUINE PASSION FOR THE GAME

Hall of Fame Committee member Russell Whitson died on January 17, 2008, at the age of 69.

Russell passed away after losing a battle with cancer. He is survived by his ex-wife Sue and daughters Paula and Fiona.

Born in Knightswood in Glasgow, he emigrated with his family — which included three brothers, all footballers — in 1952, settling in Sydney.

He played with his brothers — Duncan, Norman and Gordon — for the Sydney Warringah club that was founded by his father, George.

A very useful right winger, Russell also had a spell in New Zealand —he revisited his old club a few years ago and was a special guest at one of their games — and in New Guinea before coming to Perth in 1965.

Along with fellow Scot, George Cairns, who had been a team-mate in New Zealand, he joined Cracovia and went on to win the State League in 1966 and the D'Orsogna Cup in 1967 in a star-studded team that included Paul Sobek and Zygie Pieda before a bad knee injury ended his playing days.

A compositor by trade at The West Australian, he turned his hand to reporting and wrote match reports for The Sunday Times, Weekend News and Sunday Independent. He also did radio work with 6NR.

He was also team manager with Cracovia and was in charge when England captain Bobby Moore had a guest spell with the club.

He was made an Honorary Life Member of Cracovia and was presented with a certificate by the Polish Consul in recognition of his contribution to Polish sport in Australia.

Russell was a genuine football buff and had an extensive library of statistical books. He had a passion for research — and for getting things right — and he was eagerly co-opted onto the Hall of Fame Committee in 2001.

He was also a keen supporter of Hibernian and many WA-based fans of the Scottish club turned up to pay tribute at the funeral service, as did many of his former work-mates from The West Australian and old team-mates.

Russell's family kindly donated some of his memorabilia to the Hall of Fame.

KWINANA STALWART

Ronnie Mullan, who was trainer-physio with the Kwinana football club for several decades, passed away in tragic circumstances in early March.

Irishman Ronnie, who also coached juniors in the Kwinana area, died of a heart attack at the age of 70 after confronting some hoons on motorbikes at the North Parmelia primary school.

SUPPORTER OF THE HALL OF FAME

Although Trevor Sprigg was better known as an Aussies Rules footballer, he was also a staunch supporter of the world game.

When he died following a heart attack in January 2008 at the age of 61, he was the WA Liberal Party's Shadow Minister for Sport.

Trevor keenly backed the aims and ambitions of the Football Hall of Fame Western Australia and regularly attended induction ceremonies and other celebrations.

He most recently gave his support to the Merdeka Cup 40th anniversary gathering which was held in Perth last October.

Trevor was an all-round sportsman who played for the East Fremantle Football Club and later worked for the ABC as a sports commentator.

HALF A CENTURY OF RICHES

Doug Stewart has been coaching for 50 years — and is still having a ball.

He first dabbled in coaching with East Fremantle Tricolore in 1958 — and later with the WA State team — and is now passing on his extensive knowledge of the game to primary school kids in Rockhampton in Queensland.

Doug, who was born in Burma — and played at international level for the country in the 1954 Asian Games, winning a bronze medal — arrived in Perth in 1955.

He was a key forward as North Perth won the State League title in 1955 and 1956 before joining Tricolore and helping them to a championship in 1958 and later gaining success in the D'Orsogna Cup.

He later coached Azzurri to State League success — and led the State team on seven occasions.

He also played 11 times for WA — and became one of the first players in this part of the world to turn out at international level for two countries when he represented Australia in games against Blackpool and Hearts in 1958.

The legendary Stanley Matthews, although 43, played for Blackpool in the game, which was held in Adelaide.

"Despite his age, he was still very good," recalls Doug.

One of Doug's big successes with the State team was leading them to a 1-1 draw with a star-studded Manchester City team in 1970.

"Actually, we should have won but big John van Oosten, who never missed, hit a post with the goal wide open," he said.

Doug moved to Canberra in 1970 and coached the Canberra Arrows Under-18 team and also the ACT Under-16 team, which included a young Frank Farina, who was quickly elevated to the senior ranks.

He had a spell in tennis coaching in the ACT before heading to Brunei where he worked for the Government as an assistant chief youth and sports coach and also helped organise disabled sports.

The widely-travelled Doug then moved to the Northern Territory and led Under-21, Under-15 and amateur teams to success in football competitions.

In 1998 he turned up in Queensland and steered the Rockhampton Under-19 team to victory in the South Qld league and has since won many more titles.

"I have now gone back to my love of teaching Years 1 to 3 the techniques of the game," said Doug.

"I have great support from the schools, the parents and and the kids and I am having a ball."

Doug returned briefly to WA in 2004 when the Hall of Fame Committee selected him as one of a galaxy of stars to be included in a Century of Champions, which recognised the best 100 players in the State over 100 years.

Doug Stewart with some of his young charges in Queensland.

THE TRAVELLING MAN

◆ Many old mates bridged the years when they caught up at the Merdeka 40th Anniversary celebration — none more eagerly than John Miller, who travelled over from Melbourne for the function.

He is used to journeying long distances. When he played for Olympic in the 1960's he lived in Southern Cross (nearly 400km from Perth) and used to travel down twice a week for games and training.

John, who was born in Durham in the UK, also played for Cottesloe and North Perth, and he swapped many tales of old times with Graham Oughton, Alan Pendleton, Bob Lind, Bobby Varlow and Barrie Greenwood at the Merdeka event.

◆ Former Cockburn and North Perth Croatia defender Alan Ferris is the new mayor of East Fremantle.

Ferris, 41, has been playing lately at veterans amateur level with Tricolore.

He is the latest in the long line of football identities to enter local government, following in the footsteps of Nick Catania, who is the mayor of the Town of Vincent, and Mick Lee, who is the former mayor of the Town of Victoria Park.

Interestingly, one of the first WA mayors to have a football background was Harry Brown, who was mayor of the City of Perth from 1903 to 1905.

He played along with the famous Burt brothers in the Perth British Association FC team which was instrumental in establishing the first WA competition in 1896.

◆ The State's best internet site — footballwa.net — recently celebrated its 10th birthday by inviting the WA public to name an All-Stars team to cover the decade.

The top-voted 11 was: Robert Zabica; Craig Naven, Aaron Cole, Jamie Harnwell, Scott Miller; Michael Garcia, Gareth Naven, Nick Ward, Robbie Gaspar; Bobby Despotovski, Stuart Montgomery.

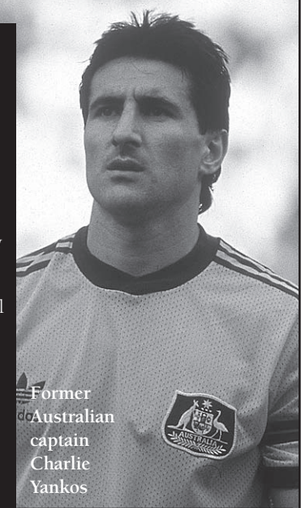
Subs: Jason Petkovic, Troy Bernard, Paul McVittie, Michael Mirco, Andreas Oliveira.

SOCCEROOS CLUB

A group of former Socceroo players, with a combined playing tally of nearly 400 caps spread over half a century, recently gathered for an historic meeting with Football Federation Australia.

The group met with FFA CEO, Ben Buckley, and Board member, Phil Wolanski, to discuss a variety of issues concerned with the history of Australian football and the contribution made by national team players.

"As football continues to experience huge growth and popularity, it is vitally important that we recognise the great history of the code and also the players who have made significant contributions representing Australia," Buckley said.



Former Australian captain Charlie Yankos

Amongst the group were long-serving Australian captains in Alex Tobin and Charlie Yankos , as well as legendary striker Ray Baartz, joined by former team-mate John Watkiss, 1956 Olympian Ted Smith, Doug Wendt, Denis Yaager and Kimon Taliadoros. Another former captain, Paul Okon, is also a member of the group.

The issues discussed were the establishment of a Socceroo Club, a mentoring program comprised of former Socceroos, the establishment of an 'FA Cup' style competition, how to recognise the game's history and capture memorabilia, and the establishment of an annual football oration.

"Football has a history in Australia which stretches back 128 years, and it is one in which all football fans, as well as all Australians, should be proud," said Buckley.

He said the FFA will work with the members represented on the group to address a range of issues of mutual interest on behalf of all Socceroos.